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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities

Provisional summary record of the 35th meeting (closed)
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 December 2007, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Verbeke ..... (Belgium)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda

Chairman's briefing on his visit to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

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The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Chairman's briefing on his visit to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

2. **The Chairman** recalled that, pursuant to paragraph 30 of Security Council resolution 1735 (2006), he had visited Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan from 26 October to 4 November 2007, accompanied by Mr. Tachie-Menson (Ghana) and Mr. Demin (Russian Federation), Vice-Chairmen of the Committee; Mr. Shtoyunda of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team; Mr. Payot of the Permanent Mission of Belgium; and Mr. Pedersen of the United Nations Secretariat.

3. In accordance with the guidelines of the Committee for the conduct of its work, he had briefed the Committee on the visit at an informal meeting held on 6 November 2007 and had prepared a written report, circulated as S/AC.37/2007/NOTE/185 of 3 December 2007. In addition, he had referred to the visit in his briefing to the Security Council on behalf of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004) on 14 November 2007 (S/PV.5779), and had issued a press release on the matter (SC/9182) on 28 November 2007. The current formal briefing had been scheduled in accordance with the Committee's programme of work for the second half of 2007.

4. The trip had again demonstrated the value of visits, which raised local authorities' awareness of the sanctions regimes, highlighting their role in supplementing the efforts of Member States, and providing an opportunity for dialogue. The Central Asian region was significant because of its closeness to Afghanistan and the attacks by groups linked to Al-Qaida and the Taliban. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were firmly committed to fighting terrorism, but considered that extremism and separatism were part of the same spectrum, that threatened their national and political stability. The table contained in annex 2 to the report on the visit (S/AC.37/2007/NOTE/185) compared the terrorist, separatist and extremist organizations banned in the territory covered by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) with the entities on the Committee's Consolidated List. While the Committee's mandate was limited to terrorism connected to Al-Qaida and the Taliban, the three Central Asian States recognized the need to focus on extremists in order to prevent them from becoming terrorists.

5. In Tashkent, a visit had been organized to the headquarters of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS). Efforts to supplement the work of the individual countries were focused on regional cooperation encompassing SCO and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and local authorities were often unaware of the potential of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), which, while limited in scope to Al-Qaida and the Taliban, had the merit of establishing universally applicable measures. Cooperation with the counter-terrorism bodies of SCO and CIS, through the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, would involve the countries of the region more closely with the work of the Committee, particularly by providing identifying characteristics for individuals and entities on the Consolidated List as well as a channel for listing requests.

6. The principal threats in the region came from the Islamic Movement of Turkestan and the Islamic Jihad Group, both offshoots of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and from Hizb ut-Tahrir, which Kazakhstan and Tajikistan considered to be an extremist and Uzbekistan a terrorist organization. Kazakhstan, which saw itself as the "locomotive of Central Asia" and had an ethnically and religiously diverse population, placed great importance on intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Tajikistan's years of civil war had no doubt strengthened its commitment to counter-terrorism, but it was in need of capacity-building and resources to stem the flow of illicit drugs from Afghanistan, with which it shared a long border. It took the view that terrorism in Central Asia was seeking regime change, which was not the case elsewhere. Uzbekistan, for its part, considered community involvement vital to countering terrorism and preventing extremists from becoming terrorists.

7. The visiting delegation had encouraged the national authorities to provide additional details for the Committee's Consolidated List or to request new listings. The security services of Uzbekistan had undertaken to do so if an official request was received from the Committee.

8. **Mr. Tachie-Menson** (Ghana) said that his delegation had been impressed with the commitment of the States visited to implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions, despite their differing capacities and levels of resources.

9. **Mr. Demin** (Russian Federation) said that the visit had provided an opportunity to confirm the commitment of the States concerned to implementing in full the various United Nations sanctions regimes and to countering terrorism in general. Tangible proof of that commitment were the mechanisms described in the visit report which they had put in place. The Committee should arrange further visits, which were an effective means of verifying the implementation of sanctions, examining the action taken by States, and investigating best practices in the field of counter-terrorism. The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) were making a substantial contribution to stability in the region.

10. **Mr. Cheng** Lie (China) said that his delegation welcomed the success of the visit. The group of countries visited and the Committee faced very similar challenges and neither could succeed without the other's support. The Central Asian States had achieved much, especially within the framework of CSTO, SCO, and the United Nations, and they looked forward to further cooperation in that area. His delegation wished to reiterate the request made by China and other Central Asian States for the listing of a terrorist entity, the East Turkestan Liberation Organization. That request appeared to have been shelved for nearly two years.

11. **Mr. Al-Qahtani** (Qatar) said that his delegation welcomed the detailed report on the visit and hoped that future visits would be as successful. The Committee and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team should exercise caution and be alert to the politically motivated desire of some States to take advantage of visits by raising issues with the visiting team secure in the knowledge that they would subsequently appear in the Committee's visit reports. While the visit had highlighted a perceived link between extremism, separatism and terrorism, the question was how to distinguish between those phenomena and to gauge whether they fell within the Committee's remit. Even in the case of terrorism, no clear definition had been established and the Committee was therefore limited to considering terrorism connected with Al-Qaida and the Taliban.

12. **The Chairman**, replying to the representative of Qatar, said that visit reports were restricted documents of the Committee and that the visiting delegation recognized that extremism and separatism were sister concepts that sometimes overlapped with terrorism but should not be confused with it. While it was not within the Committee's remit to study those phenomena, it should be conscious that they were closely connected with its work, even though that work was confined to terrorism in the context of Al-Qaida and the Taliban.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.